

## ***The Chairman Welcome.***

### ***The 40th Open Gardens Weekend***

Dear Visitor,

On behalf of the Walsham le Willows Gardens Trust may I openly offer you all a warm welcome to our village to this our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open Gardens Weekend. We've been poised, awaiting the go ahead for our 40<sup>th</sup> event for the past two difficult pandemic dominated years but now we can welcome everybody back to Walsham we're going to celebrate in style with over 45 gardens open this year a record over previous weekends. Whether you are a regular or this is your first time we do hope that you have a most enjoyable experience.

This weekend by far exceeds expectations and year after year we are proud to receive our visitors feedback and comments making this event, we believe the most successful open gardens weekend in East Anglia. It's certainly been one of the longest running of these events since its creation some 40 years ago. I believe the reason for this is the wide variety of attractions we have on offer over the two days and the friendly mixed atmosphere which exists amongst the residents of this lovely rural Suffolk village.

A phenomenal source of good has come from the funds generated over the years. 50% goes immediately towards the upkeep of the fabric of our magnificent church which holds the centre piece of the village. The balance is used to support village organisations. There are over 25 in Walsham all beneficiaries of these funds over the years. These include our primary and pre-school, our sports club, our community council, the mothers and toddlers' group, drama club, the allotments, the wildwood, and many many more.

We are renowned for the wonderful refreshments on offer at various venues within the village, not only for their quality but also for their value for money. All are freshly made by our wonderful helpers using locally produced ingredients wherever possible. So please do visit the Memorial Hall or the Priory Room for English Tea, the biggest ploughman's on the planet and local delicious homemade cakes or if you want hot food head up to into my Garden (No9) for all manner of BBQ offerings all produced with meats from our local butcher in the village Rolfes of Walsham or a Wood Fired Pizza from our pizza crew or maybe just a quiet pint of local ale or a nice freshening glass of wine.

My sincere thanks must go out to our wonderful committee for all their work they put in to make this weekend such a success and lastly but not least; I must pay tribute to my predecessor; Robin Newell, for his years of service as Chair of our committee and the Trust. Already I can tell you he's a hard act to follow. Our deepest thanks go to you Robin for all your dedicated years to our Walsham Open Gardens Weekend.

Finally, we do hope you have a most enjoyable time. If you do enjoy your visit, please tell others. If anything, you see, or experience is not right please tell us. Thank you again for visiting and have a great day, your enterprise is much appreciated.

Collen Baker

Chairman & Trustee, The Gardens Weekend Committee and the Walsham le Willows Open Gardens Trust (charity no 1147893)